From: Margaret Leber
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/9/01 7:07pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I'm a professional software engineer with over thirty years experience
in the industry, and I'm writing to express my extreme concern about
some of the language in the proposed settlement.

Section III(J)(2) says that Microsoft need not describe nor license
API, Documentation, or Communications Protocols affecting
authentication and authorization to companies that don't meet
Microsoft's criteria as a business: "...(c) meets reasonable, objective
standards established by Microsoft for certifying the authenticity and
viability of its business, ..."

This language creates a huge loophole for Microsoft to crush an
important element of thier competition today, namely open-source
software created under the auspices of non-commercial entities.
Considering that only not-for-profit organizations have flourished
producing software that competes for technical space with MSFT code
(considering they've driven the bulk of the for-profit alternatives out
by illegal practices they've already been convicted of) to allow this
language to stand will allow MSFT to freeze-out the open-source
community through nondisclosure of their interfaces. This will cripple
important open-source projects like SAMBA and the Apache Project.

MSFT has been quite vocal in the press about the effect open-source has
had on their business. In this country, we don't permit convicted
felons to own firearms lest they use them to comit another crime.
Please don't hand a convicted monopolist yet another weapon in this
battle.

 Margaret Leber
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-----/___. _) Margaret Stephanie Leber   / "The art of progress /
----/(, /| /| http://voicenet.com/~maggie   / consists of preserving/
---/ / | / | _ _ _   ` _AOPA 925383/ order amid change and /
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-/ (_/ ' K3XS .-/ .-/   ARRL 39280 /___ --A.N.Whitehead ___/
/____ICQ 7161096_(_/_(_/__AMSAT 32844____/ <maggie@voicenet.com>